

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 14 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended to place the application in condition for allowance; and claims 6 and 12 are canceled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 4, page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter; and the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 5 of the Office Action that claim 14 is allowed. In response, the allowable subject matter of claim 6 is incorporated in independent claim 1. Duplicate subject matter found in claims 6 and 12 are canceled; and dependent claims 7 and 13 are amended to update the respective dependencies. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In numbered paragraph 3, page 2 of the Office Action, independent claim 1, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,407,543 (Mashuda). While Applicant traverses the rejection, the claims are amended to place the application in condition for allowance as set forth above.

At least for the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claims 1 and 14 are allowable over the Mashuda patent. The remaining dependent claims recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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